Rochester May 2, 1831 304

My very dear Mother,

I cannot express to you the mingled emotions which took possession of my breast upon the reception and perusal of your very kind letter. I was upon the point of the coming inspection; my anxiety to hear from home was daily increasing, and the state of the people in Rupert had for some time very much occupied my mind. I was beginning to feel that the Lord was either about to remove his candlestick out of its place, or else would glorify his name in the salvation of sinners. O my dear mother what an encouraging thought, that God can glorify his name, that he can be just, that he can magnify the riches of his grace by causing his children to put their trust in him; by healing all their backslidings, and loving them freely and by calling sinners, even the most hardened and vile, the most polluted and defiled, and cleansing them in the blood of the Lamb which was slain ~~in the blood~~ from the foundation of the world. If God can thereby glorify his name, and if his glory is dear to him; since our dear Saviour has made a sufficient atonement for the whole world, and has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, what room is there for us to be unbelieving? what have we to do but to come and lay hold of the precious promises, and plead with confidence: it is not our merits we must plead, or our own names in which we approach the throne thus, but we come in the name, and plead the merits of his dearly beloved Son, who came to this earth for the avowed object of saving sinners and glorifying God — then is it not well pleasing in the sight of God that his children should come to him believing his word, looking to him for the fulfilment of his precious promises. It seems as though the Lord had repeatedly manifested to christians in Rupert that he was willing to bestow upon them a blessing if they would receive it — What was hindered the outpouring we so long? What hindered a powerful display of the goodness of God a year ago? was it not christians that stood in the way? and will they again grieve the spirit of God away? that they might humble themselves, confess his own name? if they do not at the judgement seat of Christ will their hearts be found all over stained with the blood of souls? not Do we in any measure duly realize our responsibility? If we may have power with God, and by our prayers and exertions more him to save sinners, can we be guiltless and be indifferent and unbelieving? the thought sometimes seems overwhelming, and causes me to tremble when I think how far I am from discharging my duty. O when shall I live as becomes one who ventures to hope in the mercy of God

when will my only desire be to glorify God? when I look at myself I am at once discouraged, but I know that if I turn my eye where I ought to and put my whole trust in the Saviour I should eventually obtain the victory. I know that I may expect an interest in the prayers of my dear Mother that I may grow in grace.

I was much rejoiced to hear that the people were thinking about their meeting house, also that Mr Wilson does not leave them. I shall pray that his labours might be blessed — Remember me with much much affection to him and his family — also to Miss P Bassett. Mrs Fanning and family, Mrs Sheldon and family, has she or any of hers yet found rest in believing — I intended to have written a long letter to my brother, also to Esther, Janet Burton, together with several others to my friends by Mrs Remington, but providence has prevented me. Oh I would learn to say of the Lord will I shall do so and so I should be less frequently disappointed — I received a letter from dear brother B at the same time that I did yours. His health usually good, yet thinks he grows old — The people of Greece and Persia about ten miles from this are very desirous to obtain him for their minister, he will probably visit Vermont by the many of Rochester and call upon them. he leaves Canada the 5 of June. I shall soon see him — If it is but just that he should be settled over that people it would be truely gratifying, but I would not dare to be very anxious about it for fear I should be altogether selfish. I have heard nothing about our dear friends in Sheldon — where is Charlotte? Mrs is she yet at Mr Rogerness — much love to that family and all enquiring friends — I hardly know how to be reconciled to either that both of your daughters are to be absent from you this season. I think but the expectation of Sister's return to you would have induced me to come here. But I know that no human can infinitely more than supply the place of daughters, or all other earthly friends as guests can I fondly hope that my mother may enjoy the smiles of his countenance. my dear mother I cannot tell you how closely my heart is united to yours or how earnestly I desire to see you and talk with you — but I will not indulge — I find that if the grace of God in my measure prevails in my heart it matters not much where I am, or how employed — I am not at all settled with respect to the time I shall remain in Rochester — but instead to Rochester calls me another way — whenever my mother as providence calls me hence of any I desire my time the 2 & 6 it seems rather more economical I board and rent unfurnished at $70 — it seems rather more economical I board and rent unfurnished at $70 — twice as long for $2 4, but I do agree them to labour ~~as long~~ — not positively admonitory not wish to be governed altogether by frequently admonitory will not Mrs Remington my dear brother if I will be home, but Maria will not stand to greet him, pleased to tell him

My dear Esther,

I intended to have written you a long letter by Mrs B. as I have very much I wish to say to you, but circumstances as I have before mentioned, all unforeseen I could not foresee have prevented — I have been much disappointed in not hearing from you; why have you not written to me — I will not influence you to write to me but I will ask you affectionately if I may not expect a letter from you in the course of 4 weeks at the longest — I think of you often, and feel anxious to hear about yours spiritual welfare — how you have an opportunity my dear E to set forth in your many faculty, yes and in a good cause, and under a good master too, do you not find your whole soul going out to God in earnest desires, and even groanings which cannot be uttered for the salvation of perishing souls about you? Let us labour for the salvation of perishing souls about you? Let us labour for God, can we do enough, can we begin to be faithful, (comparatively speaking) to a dying world has done so much for us

In the close of a letter I send you some manuscripts which I copied at the four days meeting — you may find some trouble in reading them as were written as must imagine in haste, and some of them in the evenings — I think you will be rewarded for your pains taking in reading them — I have mentioned the authors — please to mark those delivered by Mr Skinner of Athens — he is now our minister — truely a man of God — Mr Finney preached for us again last week — the house was filled to overflowing and the numbers could not get within the sound of his voice — It drew Sheldon in there, is she a christian, has Julia S. found the Saviour — much anxious — You know not my dear girl how ~~[illegible]~~ your many prayers with regard to their eternal interest — I can write no more — adieu from your affectionate Maria

My dear Sister Isabella — I cannot be willing to close my letter without saying a word to you. You will recollect I have not received what you owed Baxter wrote to me as I had left Rochester before it arrived — how do you do my dear girl, and how do you get along, do you learn from every days experience to grow wiser and better, I hope you do, and that no days passes but what are some good resolution, together with its strict performance —

I must say good morning

Preston my dear mother where are you this monday morning? Are you driving the oxen to plow over the hills- or are you taking care of the little lambs- I will tell you where I see no hills nor mountains, calves or lambs- but I rode the other day of about ten miles, I saw some lambs skipping about which seemed very pleasant- but as far as could look I could find nothing like a mountain, I should like very well to see old Antonio- and it is best I shall

Mrs. Mary Fisher
Putnam
Ct.

I hope you are a very good boy and do all you can to comfort Pa and Ma- that you never let an unkind word fall from your tongue- but my dear brother remember that nothing in this life will secure to you happiness short of a new heart-

Good bye my brother-
do not forget your sister Maria-
nor to comfort your parents